



Crosscut

Journal of the Wits Woodworking Association

◀ New WWA logo, thanks to Daniel Erasmus

Secretary: Kenneth Jackson secretary@wwa.org.za Editor: Trevor Pope tpope@iafrica.com
All written content and opinions are created by the editor, unless stated, and are human generated.
© Copyright reserved. Go to www.wwa.org.za for back issues of Crosscut.

Woodturners - Monday, the 3rd August 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. Rick Florence will demonstrate making a dovetail recess in workpiece for making a platter on the lathe.

Main Meeting – Wednesday, the 12th August 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. Marius Lamprecht from Urban Salvaged Timber will be talking about Reclaimed Timber and the uses thereof.

Don't forget we have the members' free raffle for those attending meetings - prizes normally have a minimum value of R1, 000.00

News

Woodturners - Monday, the 6th July 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. Peter Middleton demonstrated turning pewter. Previously, Peter cast a ring of pewter into a wooden workpiece, which he then trimmed and polished on the lathe. He used simple scrapers to turn away the pewter that was proud of the workpiece. The tool he used was one he made from a High-Speed Steel bar – it looks like a bedan with a dropped point. Conventional turning tools can be used. He then used Autosol rubbing compound to polish the pewter to a shine.

Pewter is made from tin alloyed with smaller amounts of copper, bismuth, antimony and possibly silver. In the past it had significant amounts of lead, up to 40%, but for health and safety reasons, it is no longer made with lead. It has a low melting point – 170-230°C depending on composition, so it is easy to melt and cast in the kitchen.

Main Meeting – Wednesday, the 8th July 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**.

Trevor Pope showed how to bend a thin strip of wood into a semi-circular shape. The workpiece was heated in water, close to boiling for an hour, before bending. The picture on the right shows the semi-circular form with holes for the clamps. The workpiece was centred on the top and clamped in place. Then each side was bent down and clamped (see below). From the picture you can see it was relatively pliable – my thumb was strong enough to bend it. It was then left on the form for three days to set and dry out.



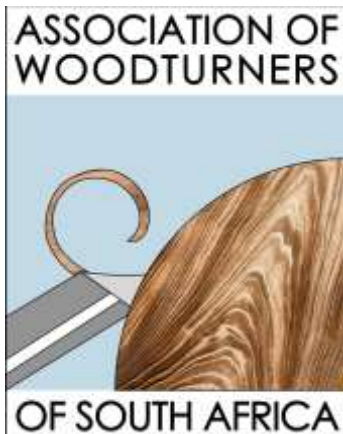


Pierre demonstrated how flexible the piece was, and also why a circular bending form was used – bending without it won't give the required circular shape.

Thanks to Ewald for the pictures.



Calendar of Events for 2026



AWSA Annual Symposium – 2026 – this will be held from 03-05 October 2026 at the New Hope School, Ashlea Gardens, Pretoria.

Visit www.awsa.org.za to see registration information when it becomes available later in the year.

Wood and Craft Expo
– Pretoria Woodworking
Association – 24 October
2026



Reminder – New WWA Account number with FNB – 63026931287 – please add this to your beneficiaries list. Please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**. Annotations such as “annual subs” or “WWA shirt” without your name are not helpful – Anesh will not be able to trace your payment. When making payments, please send the Proof Of Payment to treasurer@wwa.org.za so that Anesh can follow up any queries about the payment if needed.

Access times for **Made in Workshop** for WWA members :

MiW access control for WWA members – all current paid-up members who have attended a meeting have been issued with a bar code sticker to be used to gain access. Please remember to bring your bar code, so you aren't delayed at the entrance.

MiW times for WWA members are as follows

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9AM to 12AM. However please take note of the following: WWA members CANNOT just arrive at **MiW** and use machines unless they have booked them with **MiW**. This refers to the bookable machines such as the panel saw, thicknesser/planer, drum sander, spindle moulder as well as CNC

machines of any kind. This applies only to the woodworking machines. The other machines require the purchase of a membership at the monthly (30 day) rate – which is a good rate anyhow. Machines such as the bandsaw and the Triton router table need no booking. Henry also requires that all the major machines may only be used if the WWA member is familiar and fully understands the importance of the correct and safe use of these machines. Speak to Graham regarding training and qualification to use machines.

MiW is a **Maker Space**, which means that members are able access the machines which are included in the list above. Access to the other machines and facilities is subject to additional fees as mentioned above. While **MiW** will provide assistance and training where necessary, members are responsible for providing materials and performing the work themselves. Members need to be skilled and competent to use the facilities to do the work. For example, if you wish to use a CNC machine, you will need to manually program the tool path on the machine or import it from a design tool that generates the tool path for you. There may be a steep learning curve, but that is part of the challenge.

Bookings can be made during office hours of 8h00 to 17h00, weekdays by contacting one of these numbers:
Henry – 083-269 9505; Josh – 083-768 7853; or Trenton – 081-365 6039

Schedule for Regular Events

1. **Show & Tell** meetings are held at Hardware Centre every Friday Morning at 09:30. All WWA members welcome. Contact Eugene on 0824953394 or eugene@antlerfin.co.za

This list is subject to change, so please consult your *Crosscut* each month for any updates.



Woodoc finishes

Woodoc is a product of the indigenous South African company, Rekara Mills, from the Eastern Cape. Their factory and technical teams are still located in Fort Beaufort. Hennie Greef founded Rekara Mills in 1971, and his son Frikkie now runs the business. Their products are locally made and they export to several countries.

They make a range of oil and water-based varnishes and oils.

Woodoc 10 is a favourite of wood turners as an alternative to Danish Oil products. It is a repairable finish that can be overcoated without needing to be sanded down.

Their newer water-based varnishes have an advantage of being non-yellowing, which can be important for preserving the appearance of lighter woods if so required. Clean-up is easier too.

They also make a range of stains and colours that are compatible with their varnishes.

Woodoc is one of the sponsors our end of year Toys for Charity braai.



ALBERTSKROON WORKSHOP MEMORIES

By Winston Klein.



Glenn Lopich with the components for his model “Monster Truck”. (May 2019)



Clive Stacey doing a presentation on making Shaker boxes and fascinated members watching on. (April 2019)



The Light Combination Plane

The article reproduced below is from the Woodworker Magazine – December, 1945

Planes similar to one described in the article below are still available and useful to the modern cabinet maker.

The Quangsheng 043 Plough Plane is one example. Workshop Heaven (www.workshopheaven.com) offer the Quangsheng No 043 which is an improved design of the Record 043 for £145- with 8 straight blades included. You can also look at www.lubanplane.com

The Quansheng is also sold under the Luban and Woodriver brands. The Record #43 and #44 and Stanley #50 plough planes are available on the second-hand market.

The Luban was available locally from Toolcraft in Cape Town, but an internet search didn't bring up any sources at the moment.

The Stanley #45 and more complex #55 planes are more capable than the ones described in the article below. The advice still applies to them.

The primary purpose of these planes is for cutting rebates

and grooves. The cutters of the Luban 043 are very simple with no additional grooves or notches. Depth adjustment is manual with no levers or screw adjusters. Due to the simplicity of the cutters, it is quite feasible to make additional cutters from O1 gauge plate for other profiles and sizes if needed.

The cutters shown in the article are more complex, with a notch on the side for depth adjustment, but still quite easy to make. O1 Gauge plate is supplied in the annealed state which can be sawn and filed to shape before it is hardened for use. Bohler sells gauge plate – their O1 equivalent is called K460.

Here are a couple of videos that show the Luban 043.

<https://workshopheaven.com/blog/quangsheng-043-plough-plane-review/>

Why would you want to make grooves and rebates? These are fundamental cuts for cabinet making for housing drawer bottoms, cabinet backs and for box making. You can also use a circular saw or a router or even a handsaw and chisels. However, a plough plane is a quieter, more accurate way that may be quicker too, if you factor in set-up time.



Getting the best out of your tools

THE LIGHT COMBINATION PLANE

This tool is really a small and simplified edition of the regular full-size plough or multi-plane. Its chief work is that of grooving and housing; though it can be used for beading, matching, and rebating. Its light weight and simplicity of operation make it specially suitable for the home craftsman.

A SET of grooving, beading, and matching cutters is supplied with this plane. These are ground, but require to be given a keen finish on the oilstone. The plain grooving cutters are sharpened similarly to a chisel the important point being to keep the cutting edge square. This is partly because the bottom of the groove will otherwise be out of truth, and partly because the cutter would have more projection at one side than at the other. In this case, to make the plane cut at all, it would have to be set so that the cutter projects slightly at the low side, and this will result in a tendency to grab owing to the excessive projection at the other edge. Beading cutters are sharpened with the oilstone slip, the same angle as that already ground being maintained. The square corners are rubbed both together on the

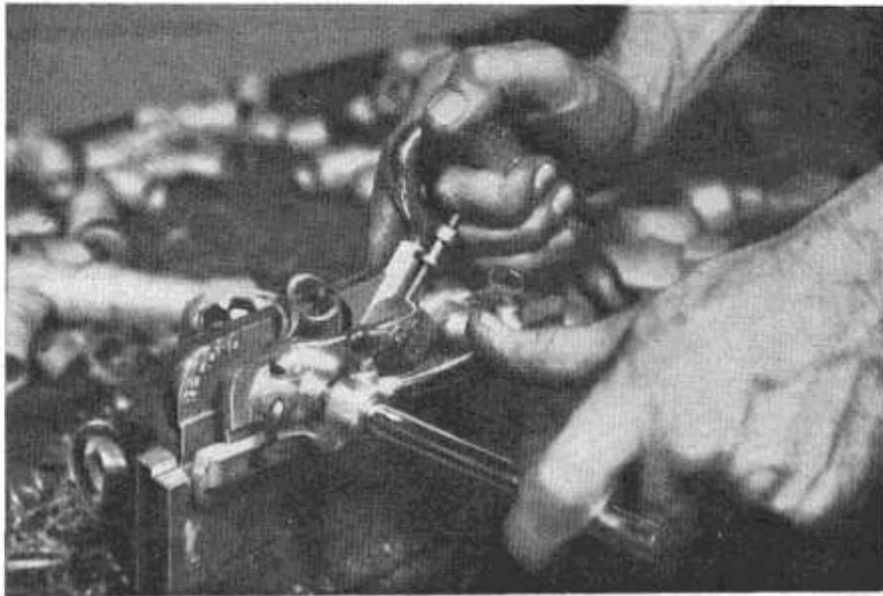


FIG. 1. HOW THE PLANE IS SET AND USED WHEN WORKING A REBATE.
Although its chief work is that of grooving, this plane can be used for rebating, though it is not so suitable as the proper rebate and fillister plane dealt with in the October number. For wide rebates the precaution noted in Fig. 11 should be taken.

ordinary oilstone. Remove the burr by rubbing the back flat on the stone.

Parts of the Plane.—Fig. 2 shows the parts of the plane set out for easy reference. The MAIN STOCK with the two Arms (A) is used in all operations. The SLIDING SECTION is added for all operations except when the $\frac{1}{4}$ in. and $\frac{3}{16}$ in. cutters are in use. It cannot be used with the latter because the combined thickness of the two sole plates would be greater than the cutter width. Consequently the sliding section is omitted and the clamping bracket (K) used instead. The FENCE is used for all work where the cutter works parallel with an edge.

Grooving.—Screw the arms (A) into the main stock, tightening them with a tommy-bar passed through the hole

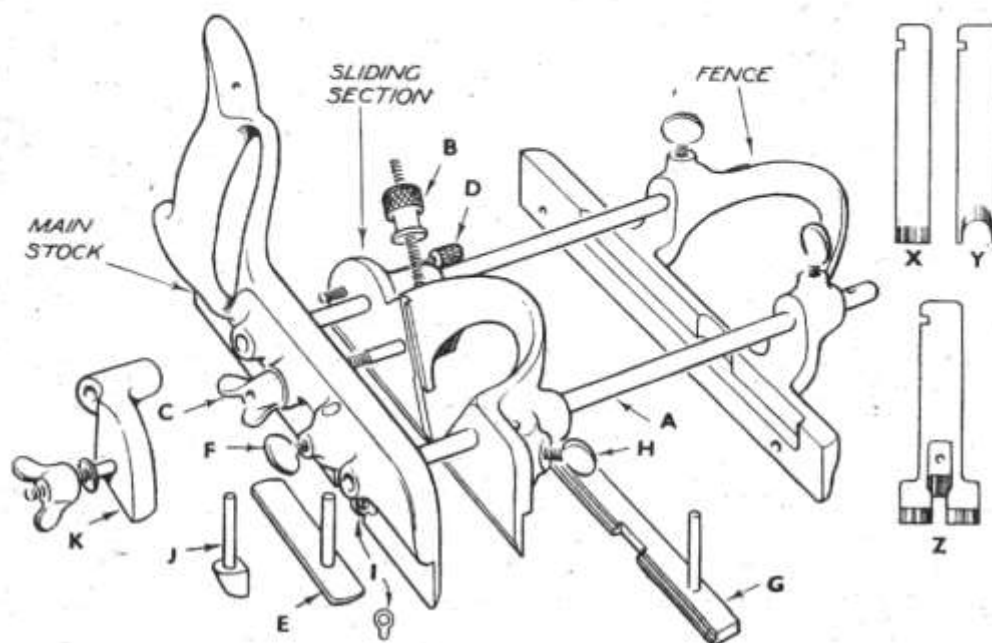


FIG. 2. PARTS OF THE PLANE LETTERED FOR EASY REFERENCE.

- A. Arms.
- B. Adjustment screw.
- C. Cutter-fixing nut.
- D. Distance screw.
- E. Depth stop.
- F. Depth stop fixing nut.
- G. Beading stop.
- H. Beading stop fixing nut.
- I. Spur.
- J. Shaving deflector.
- K. Narrow cutter clamping bracket.

CUTTERS

- X. Grooving and rebating.
- Y. Beading.
- Z. Matching.

KEEP THE FENCE PRESSED TIGHTLY UP TO THE WORK

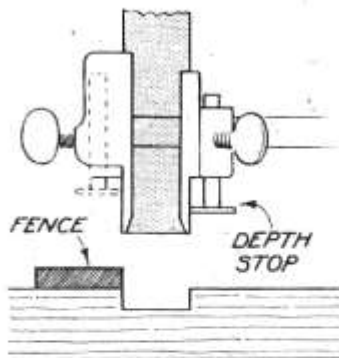


FIG. 3. TRENCHING ACROSS THE GRAIN

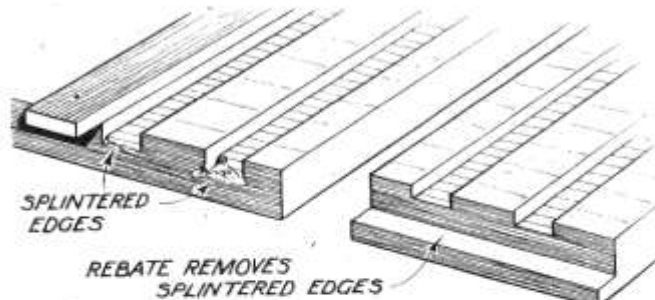


FIG. 4. WHY THE BACK EDGE OF THE WORK SHOULD BE AWAY FROM YOU WHEN TRENCHING

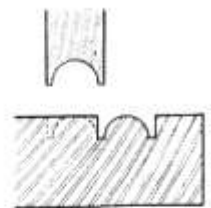


FIG. 5. WORKING ADJACENT BEADS

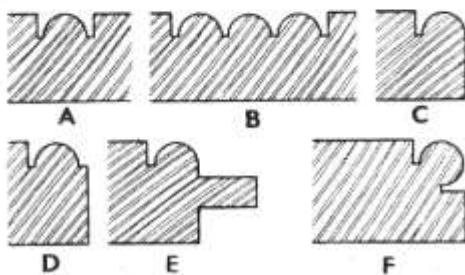


FIG. 6. VARIOUS FORMS OF BEADS

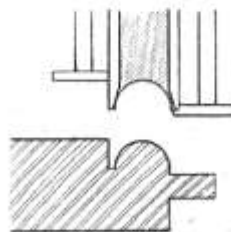


FIG. 7. BEADING TONGUED EDGE



FIG. 8. HOW ROUND ROD CAN BE MADE

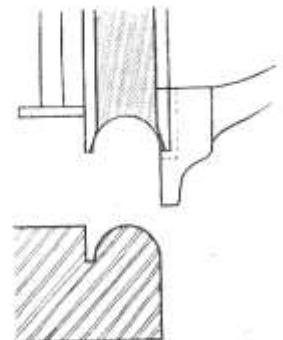


FIG. 9. WORKING BEAD AT EDGE

at the end. A nail does quite well. Pass on the sliding section and add fixing nut (C). Tightening this nut has the effect of drawing the sliding section towards the mainstock, so tightening the cutter. It is therefore necessary to pass in the cutter before positioning the sliding section—indeed, the tightening of the nut positions the sliding section automatically. Make sure that the notch at the top of the cutter engages the flange of the adjustment screw (B). Adjust for the required thickness of shaving, and lightly turn the fixing nut (C). Feed out the distance screw (D) until it just touches the main stock, and finally tighten the nut (C). The distance screw prevents the sliding section from becoming out of parallel with the main stock.

Now slide on the fence, adjusting its position so that the cutter works at the required distance from the edge, and tighten the fixing nuts. Depth stop (E) is passed into its hole and held with the nut (F). Grooves up to $\frac{1}{8}$ in. deep can be cut in this way. To work a groove $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep omit the depth stop (E). The plane will cease to cut automatically as the shape of the plane forms a stop. If a deeper groove than this is required, omit the depth stop and work down to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in the ordinary way. Then slacken the fixing nut (C), turn the adjustment screw (B) a trifle, tighten the fixing nut (C), and make a cut. Repeat the process, gradually feeding forward the cutter until the required depth has been reached.

Begin the groove at the far end of the wood, removing a few short shavings, and bring the plane a bit further back at each successive stroke. In this way the plane always runs into a groove it has already made and is less liable to drift from the edge. In any case a steady inward pressure is essential so that the fence does not leave the wood. This fence is of metal, and it is essential that it is lubricated. Candlegrease does very well, or a rag damped with linseed oil can be used. Some men prefer a wood fence, and you can make and attach one yourself, fixing it with screws driven through holes made for the purpose in the metal fence. Use a close-grained hardwood, and plane it so that it is of equal

thickness throughout. Otherwise the bearing surface will not be parallel with the plane itself. Cut a notch in it similar to that in the metal fence.

Trenching.—There are grooving operations in which the groove is not parallel with an edge, or is so far from the edge that the fence would be useless. An example is the trench or housing used to support the shelves of a bookcase. For this a straight-edge is used to keep the plane in line. Fix the wood to the bench with a couple of cramps so that the groove runs away from you. The fence or straight-edge should be fixed to the wood with a couple of nails or hand-screws. Sometimes nails can be inserted in positions where they will be concealed—in a back rebate, for instance.

The setting up of the main stock and sliding section is much the same as already described, except that the spurs (I) will have to be set to cut. Normally these are kept in a neutral position, but should be fixed so that they project when the plane is to be worked across the grain. Notes on the setting and sharpening were given on page 150 of the *October Woodworker*. Remember that the inner side only is sharpened.

Another point in the setting of the plane is the depth stop (E). Since the main stock bears against the straight-edge, it is more convenient if the depth stop (E) is fitted to the sliding section as shown in Fig. 3. It is apparently not intended to go here as, although it fits in the hole, the face of the stop does not clear. Two or three rubs with a file, however, along the side of the stop enable it to pass easily, and it will be found more convenient in that position. The only alternative is to fit it to the main stock, and set it to the groove depth plus the thickness of the straight-edge or fence (see dotted lines in Fig. 3). In this case it is essential that the straight-edge is of the same thickness throughout.

It is clearly essential that the spurs cut the grain before the cutter comes into operation. They are fixed ahead of the cutter, but even so it is advisable to draw the plane backwards for a couple of strokes with a steady downward pressure before pushing forward in the ordinary way. This

LUBRICATE YOUR PLANE WITH CANDLE GREASE

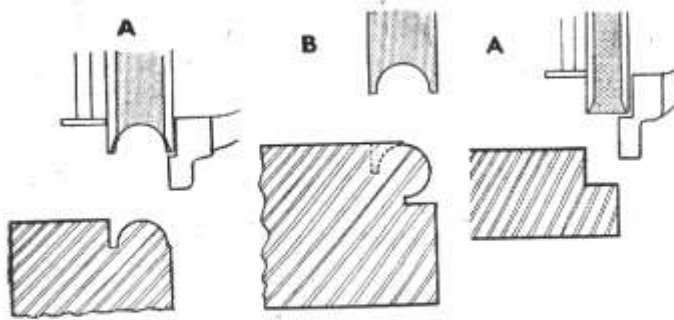


FIG. 10. RETURN BEAD BEING WORKED

is especially desirable when the spurs have been sharpened several times and have limited projection. The grain is liable to split out otherwise.

Whenever practicable have the back edge of the wood away from you. This is because there is a tendency to split out at the far edge, and it is better for any fault to be at the back. Furthermore it generally happens that a rebate is worked at the back edge to hold the cabinet back, and the working of this takes out any imperfections as shown in Fig. 4. If there is to be no rebate the only plan is to cramp or screw a length of wood along the back so that any blemishes occur in this. It is removed when the trenching is completed.

Beading.—Beads can be worked along the centre of a board (A, Fig. 6) or along the edge. If at an edge the bead can be immediately at the edge as at (C), or a quirk can be allowed as at (D). Alternatively a return bead as at (F) can be formed.

For centre beading set up the plane as for normal grooving, except of course that the beading cutter is used. The depth stop should be set so that the plane ceases to cut when the top of the hollow cutting edge just skims the wood. Steady pressure of the fence against the edge is essential. The spurs are not used. A series of beads can be worked, if required, as at (B). Generally it is advisable to work the near bead first, then the next, and the far one finally.

When the bead is immediately at the edge as at (C) the fence is passed on so that it just covers the quirk of the cutter as shown in Fig. 9. As before set the depth stop so that the plane ceases to cut as soon as the complete bead has been formed. If the effect (D), Fig. 6, is required the fence is set immediately to one side of the cutter.

It is frequently necessary to work a bead along tongued boards to produce the familiar "T and G" effect (incidentally the underlying idea in this is that, if the wood shrinks causing the joint to open, the gap will not be noticeable). The normal fence cannot be used because of the tongue, and the special beading stop (G), Fig. 2 is necessary. This fits beneath the sole of the sliding section as in Fig. 7, and its position ensures that the quirk is not worked at the outer edge. Although termed a "stop," it is really more in the nature of a fence since its edge bears against the edge of the wood. It is thin, and care must be taken not to let the plane slip upwards and away from you, especially during the first few cuts.

The return bead (F), Fig. 6 makes a useful finish for vertical corners. Work one bead first as at (A), Fig. 10, setting the fence so that only the slightest quirk is formed at the edge. Reverse the wood, and, with the plane at the same setting, complete the bead as at (B). Incidentally, approximately round rods can be made as shown in Fig. 8 by working a bead at each side of a piece of wood of suitable thickness. They are not so true as turned rods or dowel rods, but there are purposes for which they are satisfactory.

Tongueing.—The special cutter (Z), Fig. 2, is used for this. The depth stop cannot be used since the wood at both edges is automatically planed away. Instead the special stop screwed to the cutter is set to the required depth. By the way, make sure that this is square after the screw has been tightened, because the turning movement is liable to twist it slightly.

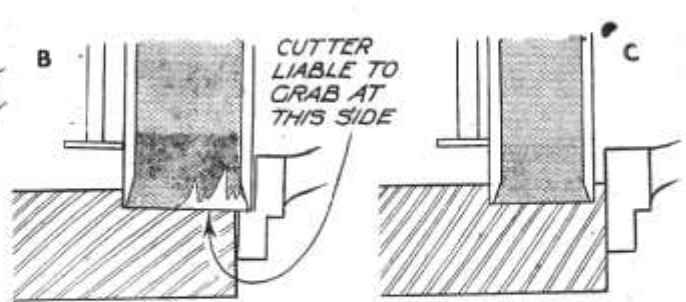
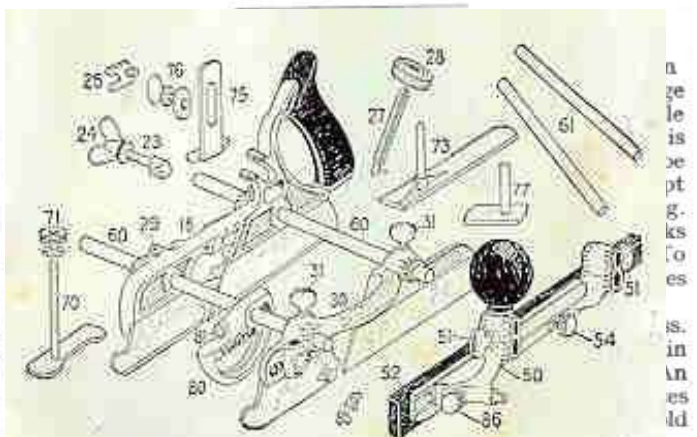


FIG. 11. POINTS TO NOTE WHEN REBATING

The offside part of the cutter has a tendency to choke since it projects well beyond the side. To obviate this a shaving deflector is fitted in the position normally occupied by the depth stop. It must be put into its hole before the cutter is passed in, and it is turned so that it touches the cutter. The writer's experience is that it is still liable to clog in some circumstances, but it can be easily corrected with a rat-tail file, thinning down the hollow portion where it bears on the cutter. Note that its object is to deflect the shavings inwards, that is, to the left as you hold the plane.

Rebating.—Whilst the tool is not so satisfactory for this work as the plane made specially for the purpose, it can be used successfully for straight-grained woods. One quite good plan is to remove the bulk of the waste with the plough, and use the rebate plane set fine to finish off. For narrow rebates use a cutter slightly wider than the rebate as at A, Fig. 11. The plane will then work satisfactorily if the fence is kept well up to the edge and the plane held square. Wider rebates are a difficulty, however, because, assuming that the cutter is wider than the rebate, it is liable to grab into the grain at the edge as shown at B, there being no sole to bear on the wood at this point. If the cutter is the same width as the rebate matters are helped a little since the sole of the sliding section bears on the extreme edge of the wood. The sole is extremely narrow, however, and is liable to slip down at the edge, and the writer's plan is to use a cutter about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. narrower than the rebate, and set the fence so that a small fillet is left at the edge of the wood as at C, Fig. 11. In this way the near corner of the cutter has positive support from the sole and there is no tendency to slip down and grab into the grain. The fillet of wood left at the edge is removed with the bench plane afterwards. (594)



PARTS OF "FORTY-FIVE"

In ordering repairs, always specify name and number of part required.

and have a second shot.

(577)

The parts of "Forty-Five" diagram above shows the more complex #45.